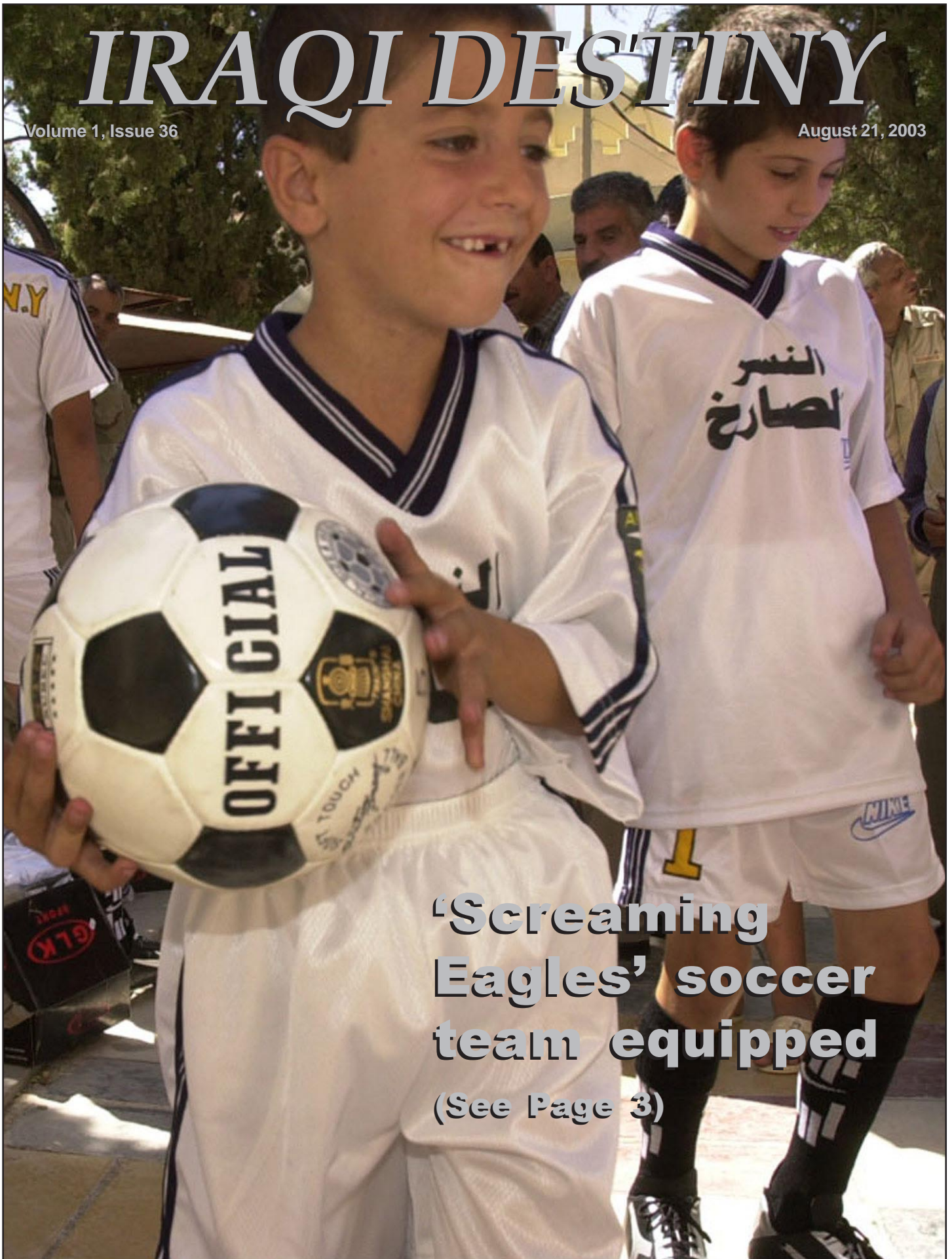


IRAQI DESTINY

Volume 1, Issue 36

August 21, 2003



**'Screaming
Eagles' soccer
team equipped**
(See Page 3)



Pfc. Thomas Day

Shoomaker's visit to Mosul

Gen. Peter Shoomaker (center), U.S. Army Chief of Staff, tours the city of Mosul with Capt. Paul Stanton (left), commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, and Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 502nd Inf. Rgt.

Letter to the Editor

American presence: occupation or liberation?

A great debate nowadays is going on among different types of the Iraqi people. A friend of mine who has a high degree in science talked to me and explained his point of view, saying that it is occupation, or even it is a kind of imperialism and that it is an insult to Iraqi people and to the Arabs.

Good, I say, but let me ask you a question first. Point out all the advantages of the ex-regime and I will listen attentively. He couldn't mention any one except that the ex-regime had achieved security, which we lack now.

Now, I say it is my turn to talk. There is corruption nearly in every field of life: in

the army, in education, in health care, in every civilian department, in economical life, in foreign police and administration.

The ignorant have held important posts, while those who have intellect are under the boots. Millions of the good Iraqis have fled away to foreign countries where they are treated as terrorists or refugees. This is the outline of our country during that period.

The Americans came and sacrificed the lives of their men and women to sweep away such a regime and establish freedom, democracy and human rights.

They also declared many times that they are going to reconstruct Iraq and

establish a new prosperous Iraq free from any fear or wars.

After all this, I asked my friend, what do we call this occupation or liberation?

I added that if the ex-regime had any goodness of modern life, you will find me the first person who will stand against them in any way possible. But now, I tell you frankly that I am with them not for their own sake or benefit, but for the welfare of my country, which has long suffered injustice and cruelty.

Contributed by
Salim Daoud Karomy,
CMOC Linguist

Iraqi Destiny Staff

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus

Div. PAO
Maj. Hugh (Trey) Cate

CMOC PAO
Maj. Carl E. Purvis

Editor
Sgt. Jason L. Austin

Journalists
Pfc. Thomas Day
Spc. Joshua M. Risner

This Army funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of the "Iraqi Destiny" are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The "Iraqi Destiny" is produced by the 40th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Campbell, Ky. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs Officer. It is published weekly, on Thursday evenings, by the Civil Military Operations Center Public Affairs Office (CMOC-PAO), Unit 96044, APO AE 09325-6044. Contact us at: jason.l.austin@us.army.mil or at DNV 581-6723

On the cover: A smiling boy heads to play soccer with soldiers after putting on his new soccer uniform, August 14, which was given to the him at the Lady Virgin Orphanage in Al Qosh by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Each child at the orphanage was given a full uniform with his name written on the back of it, and "Screaming Eagles" written on the front in Arabic. Photo by Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis, 22nd MPAD.

'Screaming Eagles' soccer team gets a new look courtesy of 101st

by Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

Big, white smiles and the sound of soccer balls bouncing off of cleats filled the Virgin Lady Orphanage, in Al Qosh, August 14.

Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander of operations, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 2nd Brigade Fire Support Element, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.) showed up at the orphanage with bags full of soccer equipment for the new boy's team, which were named the "Screaming Eagles".

The soldiers of 2nd Brigade laid each child's uniform neatly on the ground, in the courtyard of the orphanage, to make it easier to hand out the new gear. "Well, we got them soccer shoes, complete uniforms with their names on them, socks, goal nets, soccer balls, coach uniforms, goalkeeper uniforms and even goalie gloves," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy Allen, targeting officer, 2nd Bde, Fire Support Element. "That's about it. We got them a complete set. The only thing we have to do is build them the goal post."

After the boys were given their uniforms they hurried to put them on.

One by one the boys came out to play, what they call football, with the soldiers.

Some of them with their shoes untied, some with their socks pulled up to their thighs and some just right.

Although some needed lessons on the wear and appearance of their new soccer uniforms, the soldiers, who are used to the wear and appearance of uniforms, had no trouble teaching them the fitting way to wear them.

"These kids don't have anything," added Helmick. "It's great for us to come out here to see them and provide them something ... it's tremendous."

Propane is usually the theme for the 2nd Bde. Fire Support Element. This is how Helmick found out about the orphanage. Maj. David P. Gunn, fire support officer, had spoken with Father



Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

Two boys at the Virgin Lady Orphanage in Al Qosh look at the "Screaming Eagle" patch sewn on the new uniforms given to them by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), August 14.

Mufid Toma, the orphanage director, about propane when he found out about the children who loved to play soccer. He said the 101st was looking for someone to sponsor for soccer, so it developed from that point.

"Division provided the funding, we coordinated with a local merchant in Mosul who designed the uniforms and put them together for the kids," Gunn said.

With new blue and yellow "Scream-

ing Eagle" uniforms the children are sure to have many fun filled days playing soccer.

Father Toma smiled, from ear to ear, as he watched all his boys playing with the soldiers.

It's great to put a smile on people's faces, Gunn said. "I don't know of a soldier in this Army who doesn't feel that way. Smiling children, it's probably the best feeling you can have when you're away from your own family."

Foundation set for addition to overcrowded girls' school

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Construction on an addition to the al-Khansa all-girls' high school in West Mosul, currently too small to hold its 900 students, has begun after Mosul Interim Mayor Ghanim al-Basso and Col. Joseph Anderson, 502nd Infantry Regiment helped lay the first brick on the project in an opening ceremony Monday.

Anderson donated over \$5,000 towards rebuilding the school from his discretionary fund; nearly \$10,000 came from 101st Airborne Division Artillery and Col. David C. Martino, commander, DIVARTY, for the new wing of the school.

"We look forward to working with you to continue to make things better for the children of this city," Anderson told al-Basso after the interim mayor presented the 2nd Brigade commander with the shovel he would use to inaugurate the project. "Thank you for the support."

The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, who have been involved in several other school rebuilding projects, took the

lead on this project. "I think we have 16 schools in 'Top Gun's' sector," said Capt. Bill Daugherty of Philadelphia, Penn., who helped lobby for funding for the project. "This one's a little bit different because it's getting an addition. It's a growing neighborhood so it needs more space."

The assignment of building the new wing of the school went to a civilian contracted construction company in Mosul, with Capt. Kevin L. Jackson and his Battery B, 1-320th soldiers overseeing the effort. Jackson predicted that the project would take "about two weeks."

Chap. (Maj.) Carlos Huerta of Brooklyn, N.Y., a Rabbi with the 101st Airborne Division and the 1-320th battalion chaplain, was also honored by the teachers of the school Monday for his efforts in funding and overseeing the effort to clean and rebuild the school. The usually humble Huerta was quick to deflect praise towards Muhammad Moshaiif Muhammad, an English Literature teacher who worked with the chaplain on the project.

"I would be stealing if I took credit for this," Huerta said.

"All the credit is due to Mr. Muhammad."



Pfc. Thomas Day

Mosul Interim Mayor Ghanim al-Basso kicks-off construction on a new wing to the al-Khansa all-girls high school in Mosul.

Baghdad begins first city-wide trash collection program

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- All Baghdad residents, regardless of social or economic status, have access to garbage collection for the first time in city history this week.

The Coalition Provisional Authority in conjunction with the City of Baghdad is proud to announce the establishment of the first city-wide garbage collection system.

Under the regime of Saddam Hussein only the most prominent Baghdad residents received garbage

collection services.

No consistent, universal system existed except in the wealthiest areas of town.

Even then, garbage was collected only if residents tipped the city workers who came into their neighborhoods to collect trash.

This week, more than 1,400 trucks have begun running a series of new routes reaching every part of the capital city.

The trucks run two to three times per

day to collect the more than 22,000 tons of waste generated every week.

It is the first time that residents will have these services regardless of social or economic status.

Faris Abdul Razaq Al-Aasam Deputy Mayor for the Municipality stated, "This is a dramatic step forward toward improving the quality of life for millions of Iraqis. Under Saddam, residents' garbage

See TRASH, Page 5

Assistant division commander addresses local problems

Mosul's fuel, water, power updates

Staff Sgt. Mark Swart
40th PAD

The second-in-command of Coalition Forces in Northern Iraq spoke to members of the local media today at Mosul City Hall about the ongoing struggle to restore power, water and various fuels to Northern Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander of operations, 101st Airborne Division, said that the power situation "isn't just a problem in the Ninevah province, it's a problem in the whole country."

He said that the country currently has approximately half of the power it needs. The Ninevah province, he added, is currently sending power to southern areas to help alleviate their problems.

A number of solutions are in the works for the power situation, along with a schedule for routine power outages.

Power will remain on at all times in certain critical locations, such as hospitals, water pump plants and water treatment plants.

As a short-term solution, engineer teams with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are focusing on education for power conservation, more efficient methods of operating current power

plants, and seeking donations of large power plants from humanitarian assistance organizations.

They are also looking at buying power from Turkey and Syria.

"We have current initiatives to import power from other countries," Helmick said, adding that the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad would have to approve of the purchase before any transfer could begin.

The division is also working long-term solutions, such as rehabilitation projects for current plants.

"This could double power production in 18 months," said 1st Lt. Steve Nichols, an engineer assigned to the project.

Water

Earlier this week, the division signed a contract to begin 44 major water distribution system repairs.

Most of the problems of the system have come from long-term neglect over the past 13 years, including illegal taps into lines and frequent power outages. Helmick said that once the repairs are underway, results would be immediately noticeable.

The Al Jezeera Pump Station, which provides water for irrigation from nearby Freedom (formerly Saddam) Lake, was reopened two days ago.

"We've already saved the tomato and potato crops," Helmick said.

He added that a long-term plan is also in the works to begin replacing water pipes.

"The average rate for replacement is 5-10 percent per year," said Capt. Scott McDonald, an engineer with the 101st.

A local phone number has also been assigned so that citizens can call in to report illegal water taps and breaks in the water system.

Fuel

The three major fuel requirements, benzene, propane and diesel, were also addressed at the conference.

Helmick said that currently the Ninevah region has a plentiful supply of benzene, which is currently being sold at government pump stations for 20 Iraqi Dinars per liter.

Propane and diesel are both at approximately 30 percent of the needed supply.

The diesel supply is expected to improve in the short term as trains begin importing it into the region. This is much more efficient than bringing it in by truck, Helmick said.

A major refinery is expected to open in Kisik on Sept. 1, which will also alleviate the diesel shortage.

Although propane is still at shortage levels, coalition forces are working to keep the black market at bay.

Currently, propane black marketers have their propane confiscated, and it is given to the needy or orphanages.

"We are in as good or better shape than the rest of Iraq, but we still aren't satisfied" Helmick said. "Our goal is to make sure that every citizen in Iraq has the fuel they need."

TRASH, from Page 4

often piled up for weeks, or was never collected. The regime simply didn't care about the health risks of this neglect on the city's population."

Under the former regime, the vast majority of Baghdad residents, left trash along the streets, incinerated it in their yards or brought the refuse to a neighborhood location where it was continuously burned.

Trash burning and the piling up of refuse have dramatic human health effects.

The old system contributed to an environment where many diseases could spread.

The constant burning of refuse also released toxins into the air creating dangerous breathing conditions.

"This was not about getting a system back up. This was about putting a system in place for the first time," stated Henry Bassford, Senior Advisor to the CPA for Baghdad. "Everyone deserves to live on a clean street. This new system will help the people of Baghdad reach that goal."

The Coalition and the city are in the process of developing a public aware-

ness campaign about the garbage removal system to educate residents with the routes, pick-up times and days.

Plans are also underway for the creation of Iraq's first environmentally friendly landfill and recycling facilities.

Contributed by:
Coalition Provisional Authority
Office of Strategic Communication



Pfc. Thomas Day

Two of four buses recently donated to the Ninevah Province Department of Transportation wait to pull out of a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) compound and into service for the city of Mosul.

Mosul Transportation Dept. drives away in new buses from 431st CA and 101st

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The Ninevah Province Department of Public Transportation drove away with four new public buses Tuesday, giving an immediate boost to the Mosul transportation infrastructure.

"A lot of buses that they have ... are very old and most of the buses that were given to the public transportation system for Ninevah from Baghdad are run down and no longer operational," said Capt. Blake Hamm of Midland, Texas, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion.

"One of the most immediate impacts we can have is to buy more buses like we have today for the citizens," he said. Hamm and the 431st Civil Affairs public transportation team was active in negotiating the deal for the buses from the Bateel Trading Company in Turkey. The buses were priced at about \$25,000 each.

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air

Assault), picked up the tab through his discretionary fund. Petraeus is also looking to buy additional buses for the area, according to Capt. Julie Simoni of Knox, Ind., who works for the 101st CG's office.

"They're putting the request in to buy many buses for the Ninevah Province, however the process of getting the funding approved is lengthy," she said. "The commanding general wanted some buses now."

More buses may be on the way through brigade level command discretionary funds, according to Simoni. The 101st CG's office also hopes to bring several ambulances and garbage trucks to the local area in the coming months.

The buses are now actively running on already established routes through Mosul. The impact on the local community, according to Hamm, will be immediate.

"There are a great number of Mosul citizens who don't have the money to go out and buy good cars to drive back and forth to work," he said. "Public transportation is one of the primary means of moving citizens to and from their jobs."

Work to rebuild Iraq will go forward, says senior U.S. Civilian

by K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The United States' work with the United Nations to help build Iraq will go forward, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator in Iraq, said today.

"(This bombing of the U.N. compound) obviously a very unfortunate incident, but it does not derail our efforts," the ambassador said on CNN's "American Morning." "As the president said in his statement at Crawford (Texas), we're going to go forward. We have a very good plan to deal with problems of security and more importantly to get the economy going here. The political process is well under way."

As the investigation of the Aug. 19 truck bomb attack on the United Nations in Iraq continues, Bremer said it's "certainly possible" his friend Sergio Vieira de Mello, top U.N. official in Iraq and former U.N. high commissioner for human rights, could have been a target. De Mello is one of at least 17 who perished in the attack, according to news reports. There has been no official word on the number of casualties.

"Whoever did this positioned the truck in a place that was quite clearly in front of his (de Mello's) office," he added.

The ambassador extended his sympathies to families during an interview on NBC's "Today." "This terrible attack reminds us that wherever in the world it appears, the face of terrorism is ugly and evil, whether it's in Baghdad or Jerusalem as it was yesterday or in New York or Washington."

Another possibility, Bremer told CNN, is that the terrorists thought they could scare the United Nations into leaving the country. "They have not succeeded in that, as the (U.N.) secretary general has pointed out," he added. "We're not going to rest until we find these terrorists. It's part of a global war against terrorism that was declared on us on Sept. 11 (2001). It's a war that we have to fight where the

Around the 101st

Caches destroyed in 1st Brigade area

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is making significant progress on removing weapons caches in the 1st Brigade area of operations.

On Aug. 18 the Al Hadr mayor and police led soldiers to a cache inside of a cave. The cache consisted of 4,230 rounds comprised of RPG, 100 mm, and 57 mm rounds. The Mine Advisory Group destroyed 2,466 rounds. The remainder of the rounds were relocated to a bunker and will be destroyed at a later date.

While on patrol, scouts from 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment discovered a cache of mortar rounds west of Qayyarah and secured the area. The cache consisted of 35x120 mm mortar rounds.

An ambush site overwatching a cache found on Aug. 17 was torn down. Soldiers sat at the site for 48 hours watching to see if anyone would try to recover the cache. No one did. The cache consisted of one RPG launcher, one 60 mm mortar tube with base plate, two 60 mm rounds, four RPG charges, one AK-47 with five magazines, nine 9 mm sterling submachine guns and seven 9 mm submachine guns.

The division's 1st Brigade "Bastogne" is responsible for the area around Qayyarah, which is south of Mosul.

Source leads soldiers to UXO site

With help from locals, the 101st Airborne Division is closing in on individuals hiding weapons and passing out anti-U.S. leaflets.

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade were approached by a person stating that he knew someone who is positioning ordnance and passing out leaflets. The source took the soldiers to the home of the individual and brought copies of the leaflets to the 2nd Brigade command sergeant major.

With the establishment of the Operation Iraqi Freedom rewards program, more locals are providing information to U.S. soldiers about weapons caches and individuals conducting terrorist activities. Rewards are available for specific targeted information that leads to successful operations against international terrorism.

Rewards may be paid in cash, goods, services, or a combination of all three. Cash rewards may be in amounts up to \$200,000 in U.S. or foreign currency.

The division's 2nd Brigade, known as



Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

This dump truck holds the first load of used brass shells collected by the Mines Advisory Group and the soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to be sold for supplies and equipment for the schools of the town of Hatra.

the "Strike" brigade, is responsible for the city of Mosul.

Mortar rounds found by 2nd Brigade

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is making progress to rid the Mosul area of weapon caches.

Approximately 200 mortar rounds were found in a trench system on top of a hill, Aug. 20. The rounds have not yet been destroyed. Engineers in 2nd Brigade have been notified of the cache and have added it to their pickup list.

Iraqi's used ammo sold to buy school supplies

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are working with the Mines Advisory Group and Ninevah residents to get rid of the tons of used ammo stored at two ammo supply points north of the town of Hatra.

The brass shells of various calibers are being systematically destroyed in a safe manner by the MAG, and shipped to Mosul and other places to be melted down in factories and recycled.

With the money obtained from selling the brass, the government will buy school equipment and supplies.

In a ceremony this week, Lt. Col. Kevin Felix, commander, 2nd Bn., 320th FA spoke

to mayor Noful Hamidi Sultan and the people of Hatra, as well as his soldiers and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, division commander.

The ceremony was to thank the people who worked on clearing the spent shells and kicked off delivery of the first dump truck load of brass.

65,000 benefit from cooperation

On Aug. 19, the people of Al Avgani got a first hand look at how the community quality of life can be improved through cooperation between Iraqis and U.S. forces. The health clinic in Al Avgani opened to provide more than 65,000 people with better health care.

The task to supervise the project fell on Battery B "Bandit Battery", 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. Each day for the past five weeks, members of Bandit Battery and representatives from the Battalion Aid Station of 1st Bn., "Leader Battalion," 187th Infantry Rgt. made trips to Al Avgani to monitor the progress of the contractors. The ribbon cutting ceremony unveiled the combined efforts of the soldiers and the clinic's medical staff.

Upon completion of the remarks the ribbon was cut and now 65,000 Iraqi citizens are seeing the results and benefits of cooperation between each other and with U.S. forces.

Around Iraq

Deployment pay will not lower, officials say

by Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Pentagon officials have no intention of lowering total compensation for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Defense Department's top personnel officer said Aug. 14.

David S.C. Chu, defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness, took questions from the media on the topic in response to published media reports suggesting DoD would cut the pay of forces serving overseas in the war on terrorism.

At issue are temporary increases Congress approved in April for two forms of compensation: imminent danger pay and family separation allowance.

Imminent danger pay went from \$150 per month to \$225, while family separation pay increased from \$100 to \$250 per month.

The two increases are set to expire Sept. 30, and defense officials have urged Congress not to extend them, saying they are unfunded.

But, Chu stressed, this doesn't mean troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan will see a cut in their total take-home pay. "We are not going to reduce their compensation," Chu said.

Another senior official called the notion that the Pentagon would cut pay to combat troops "absurd."

Instead, the Defense Department would prefer to compensate the troops through other means. "We have some incentive pay with which we can compensate people in Iraq (and Afghanistan) should the current allowance provisions expire," Chu said. Among these are hardship duty pay and incentive pay, he added.

Officials haven't worked out all the details yet, at least in part because Congress may still approve extending the increases in those two allowances, which the department would then have to find a way to pay for, Chu said.



Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Heavy equipment operators from the 94th Engineer Battalion load rubble from old, destroyed military buildings on the bank of the Tigris River Aug. 14. The building-clearing project clears the land of the useless obstructions that might provide a hiding place to would-be intruders.

Engineers bulldoze buildings for security on banks of Tigris

by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD (Army News Service) -- Soldiers from the Vilseck, Germany-based, 94th Engineer Battalion are kicking up 20-foot clouds of dust to make the Coalition Provisional Authority's headquarters more secure.

"We are out here clearing out buildings for the security force protection of the CPA," said Staff Sgt. Roger Faust, noncommissioned officer-in-charge the 94th Eng. Bn. detachment working at the former presidential palace of Saddam Hussein.

Soldiers in the battalion's Company B have taken on part of the security responsibility for the CPA at the presidential palace in Baghdad with the teardown and cleanup of unwanted structures, Faust said.

Five-ton dump trucks, backhoes and bulldozers kicked up 20-foot clouds of dust as soldiers scooped up and tow off the rubble of the old regime's destroyed military buildings.

The main threat concern for the CPA

security is possible attackers that could cross the river in an attempt to gain access to the palace grounds, said Faust.

The engineers have been tasked with clearing out the bombed-out buildings that could provide cover and concealment for hostile intruders.

"Right here were a total of 13 buildings that have been taken down so guards have a clear view of the palace grounds all the way to the Tigris River," he said.

"We are concerned mostly with people crossing the river, and in case of any kind of attack we don't want to give the enemy a place to hide," said Spc. J.D. Wissinger, heavy construction equipment operator in the 94th Eng. Bn. "Most of these buildings were in terrible disrepair and were of no use to us anyway."

The push for security in Iraq is far from finished, said Faust. He and his soldiers are proud to make their contribution to the safety of the hub of the new Iraqi government, as well as the soldiers and civilians who guard it.

"Although major hostilities have ended, the real war is not officially over," said Faust. "We are out here doing our job. That is what I joined the Army to do and there is nothing else I would rather do."

Around Iraq

Airmen, soldiers deliver gifts to Iraqi orphanage

by Airman 1st Class Kara Philp
332nd AEW PAO

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq (Army News Service) -- The convoy's engines rumble slows to a dull idle. The melodic sounds of a Muslim prayer fill the hot, dusty air of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. A boys' orphanage sits empty and quiet.

This somber scene quickly changes as Army and Air Force troops of Tallil Air Base arrive with boxes of surprises.

Inside a rundown concrete building a black and white television displays Arabic writing. A man dressed in traditional clothing welcomes the visiting troops, still clad in their camouflaged body armor.

A quick glance of the facility reveals the tough life for the orphans who call it home. The children at the orphanage are without an extended family to spend the summer months with. World War II-style beds, some with mattresses and some without, are the only furniture besides an old dining table in a kitchen so small some people might confuse it for a walk-in closet.

"I've seen different levels of society, but nothing could have prepared me for this," said Sgt. Jessica Yniguez, operations sergeant, 806th Adjutant General (Postal) Company.

Once all the boxes marked 'boys' are delivered the troops wave good-bye as their convoy pulls out. The next stop, an orphanage for toddlers across the war-torn town.

Some of the children, ranging from one month to 5-years old, sleep soundly. Others race toward the doorway with their hands raised above their heads beckoning to be picked up and held by the American troops.

The 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion's Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Davis remembered different reactions.

"On our first trip to the orphanages the children were afraid of us -- very standoffish and unsure," Davis recalled. "Now they come running to us and you can see it in their eyes -- they are happier. We've made a difference."



Air Force Master Sgt. Sylvia Goodwin, postmaster, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron helps local children sort through the contents of one of the boxes delivered to the orphanages in An Nasiriyah.

"The second I saw the children I wanted to cry. I think it was out of joy," Yniguez said.

She said the children helped her forget about the war momentarily.

"I enjoy the innocence of the children," she said. "They have no understanding of what's going on outside the building."

After the precious boxes are unloaded and delivered, the convoy makes yet another trip across town and the Euphrates River bringing the troops to their final stop.

The last of the three orphanages houses girls, up to age 16. Because the girls are so excited to see familiar faces, the language barrier fades.

"This mission makes me feel needed," said Airman 1st Class Carlos Williams, postal clerk, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron Post Office. "Seeing the children go through the items we collected makes all our hard work worthwhile."

Everyone gathers around the boxes as the items are pulled out one by one -- colored pencils, scissors, toothpaste and combs.

"Their eyes just light up," Yniguez said. "It makes you wonder if they have ever seen a box of crayons before. The colors are such a contrast from those of their surroundings. It makes you appreciate every single thing you have."

Some girls fill their arms up with all they

can carry and run off down the hall, while others wait anxiously to see what's inside of the next box.

"It feels good to see this type of reaction," Williams said from the doorway.

The buildings have seen great improvements since the members of the Army's 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion made their first 15-minute voyage from Tallil in April, Davis recalled. Recently, the Air Force piggybacked on the Army's idea. As a result, the first joint Army and Air Force trip was made just a few weeks ago.

"When we first visited the orphanage there was no running water, no electricity, no sewage and no refrigeration," Davis said. "The buildings had been looted -- and what the thieves didn't want they set on fire."

"To actually meet and spend time with the children we are helping is the most rewarding part," Goodwin said. "They are very grateful for the things we provide and look forward to our visits."

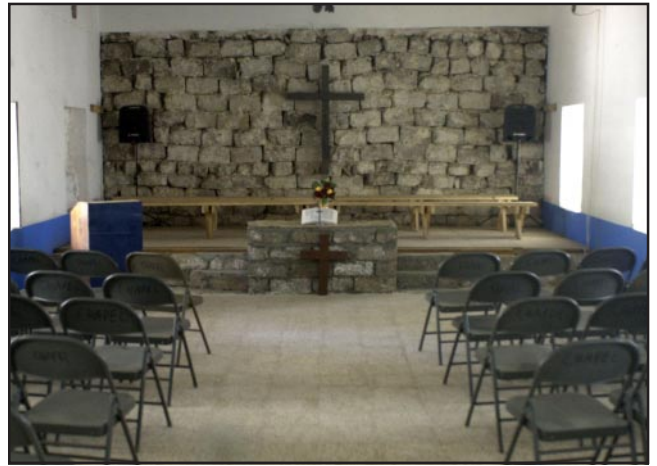
"It's a blessing to be able to make a difference in this area," Goodwin said. "Six months ago this wouldn't have been possible."

As the convoy begins the trek back to Tallil, children chase after the trucks waving and shouting "maa al salama, maa al salama." While the words translate to good-bye, the voices are filled with hope the troops return soon.

Camp of the Week: 801st Main Support Battalion



Spc. Joshua M. Risner



(Left) Iraqis put together meals at the Maintainer Cafe in the 801st area of operations. The cafe serves Iraqi cuisine such as kabobs, roasted chicken and shawarma. (Lower left) The Maintainer shop, located beside the cafe, supplies soldiers with cigarettes, snacks and drinks. (Below) Soldiers buy amenities at the BX/PX. Soldiers can get anything from DVDs to snacks and toiletries. (Above) The Freedom Chapel is another sight to see at the 801st AO. Soldiers are provided with multi-denominational spiritual gratification on a weekly basis.



IRAQ, from Page 6

terrorists are and unfortunately they're here in Iraq."

The ambassador told NBC there are at least two hypotheses on who is responsible for the attack on the United Nations. "One is that it was done by remnants of the Saddam regime," Bremer said. "This is the pre-eminent view of the members of the Governing Council here. It is also possible it was done by people from the outside."

Bremer added that the Governing Council, the interim government of Iraq, issued a "very strong" statement condemning the attack as being an "attack against the Iraqi people and saying that it would not deflect them from their determination to rebuild their country. And I think that accurately reflects the views of most Iraqis."

The ambassador visited the site

several hours after the explosion. He told CNN there were Iraqi civil defense rescue people and Iraqi police working side by side with Americans to clear the rubble and to preserve evidence.

"It was an awful scene," he said. "It's a scene that reminds you how ugly the face of terrorism is wherever it appears."

But Iraq is not a "country in chaos," Bremer said in an interview on CBS's "Early Show." "The streets of the main cities, including Baghdad, are safe today," he stressed. "You find thousands of Iraqis on the streets. Right now, if you went downtown, you'd find them walking around. The shops are open. Men and women and children are there."

Terrorism, added the ambassador, does not mean chaos. "It does mean an outrage against humanity and it is something we have to deal with and we will deal with it. But it is simply wrong to extrapolate these terrorist acts to a conclusion that this country is in chaos. It's simply not true."

The Judge Says...

Items of legal interest to soldiers

Q: Isn't there a legal limit on interests?

A: Many states have "usury" laws, which set a legal limit on the amount of interest a lender can charge on a loan. In those states there are usually exceptions however, such as for pawnbrokers and companies that cash checks.

Alabama does not have a usury law, so you can be charged any amount of interest you agree to pay. So, be very careful what you sign!

Q: What is a 'Debt Consolidation Loan?' Is it a good idea?

A: A "debt consolidation loan" combines two or more smaller debts into one larger debt. Debt consolidation loans are targeted toward people with problems paying their bills.

One "advantage" is that instead of having to write several checks each month to many creditors, you can borrow from one lender, pay off all creditors, then write one check a month to repay the larger loan. It sounds easier than writing all those checks!

Another "advantage" is that you may end up with a smaller monthly payment. For example, instead of having six

creditors, each demanding \$100 a month, you may have one \$350 payment to the new lender. That sounds like a savings of \$250 a month!

Most debt consolidation loans are not a good idea, however. They usually charge a higher rate of interest than the original debts.

It is generally unwise, for example, to borrow money at 28% interest to pay off an 18% interest loan. Lower monthly payments mean the debt will take longer to repay and a larger amount of interest will be charged. Be sure to read the fine print before taking out such a loan.

Preventive law tip of the week:

Technology exists by which a check can be "cleaned," and the new blank check filled out to the order of a thief!

Consumer protection experts recommend that you never use erasable ink on a check. Also, when you are mailing a payment, do not place the envelope in your mailbox, as a thief may steal it before a postal employee picks it up. Mail all envelopes containing checks from the post office.

Finally, safeguard all checks, and contact your bank promptly if any are stolen.

801st MSB taking on one tough mission

If you asked Sgt. 1st Class Edward Gibbons, noncommissioned officer in charge, Company C, 801st Main Support Battalion, about the above statement he would say, "That's true!" While the rest of the camp is asleep, spot lights glare and forklifts whine as the Technical Supply Section of the Co. C of the 801st works around the clock.

Company C, commanded by Capt. James Larson, is the technical arm of the support system. The Tech Supply Section takes care of what is called the Class IX Yard. They receive, store and issue not only automotive parts but also weapons, cleaning kits, NBC gear and aviation repair parts. The largest part they handle is a \$50,000 turbine engine for a Black Hawk helicopter. The list covers 3,600 different types of items. Spc. Ryan Lavender states that they process about 700 Material Release Orders every day.

So how do they do it? Part of the answer lies in their round-the-clock operations. Twenty soldiers rotate into day and night shifts. Four soldiers keep things moving at night. Every night, portable and fixed light sets illuminate the yard so that forklifts can download 20 truckloads of four pallets each in preparation for distribution to aviation and forward support units throughout the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). These soldiers are quick to mention that they also take their regular turns pulling guard duty, Kitchen Patrol and other duties.

The other part of the answer is the employment of 19 Iraqi civilians. Spc. Jose Vela is responsible for instructing, leading and caring for these workers. It is agreed by the leaders that he has developed these men into more than laborers. In fact, he has turned them into 92 Alpha's (Automated Logistics Specialists).

All in all, this crew from Charlie Company of the 801st has at least a place among the hardest working troops in the US Army. As their Officer in Charge Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard French says, "It's a lot of tedious work but we're making it happen so that the Division can survive."

Contributed anonymously

Man on the Street

What can be done to improve Mosul's driving conditions?



"Get the kids out of the street."

- Staff Sgt. Michael Ascott of Fayetteville, Tenn., 37th Engineering Battalion



"They don't know how to drive unless you give them a driving class."

- Pfc. Calvin Cooper of Norfolk, Va., 501st Signal Battalion

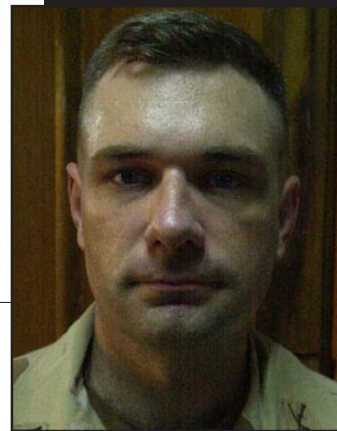
"I would get an effective police force out there to enforce traffic laws."

- Capt. Chandler Gillespie of Newton Square, Penn., 501st Signal Battalion



"There's not much we can do. What our guys can do is slow down."

- Capt. James Page of Louisville, Ky., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



"Teach them that green means go, yellow means caution and red means stop."

- Sgt. 1st Class Kerry Parker of Clarksville, Tenn., Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Division Artillery



"Drivers training ... just get them familiar with the road."

- Staff Sgt. Joan Rush of Gretna, La., 501st Signal Battalion